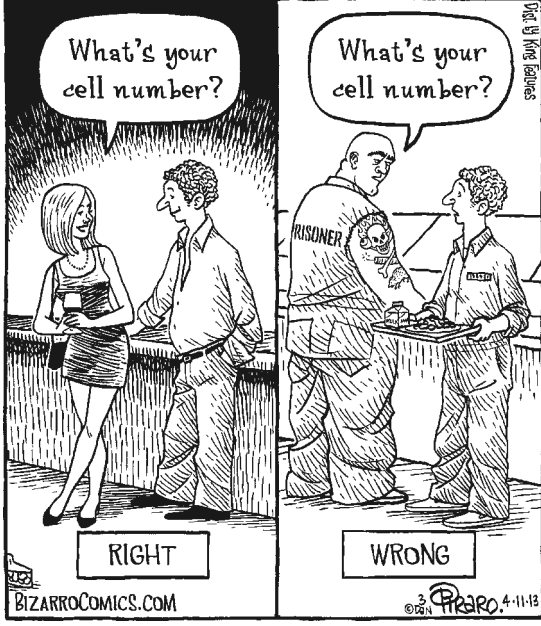


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



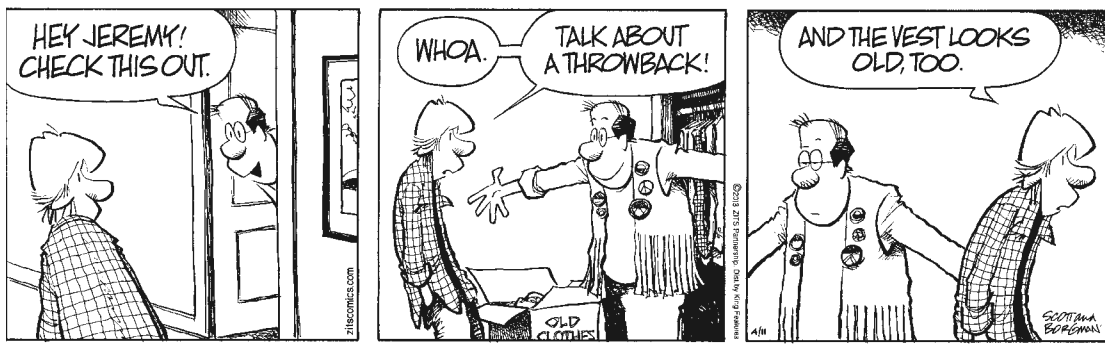
4-11
© 2013 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com
"Okay, so what number can we both be happy with?"

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

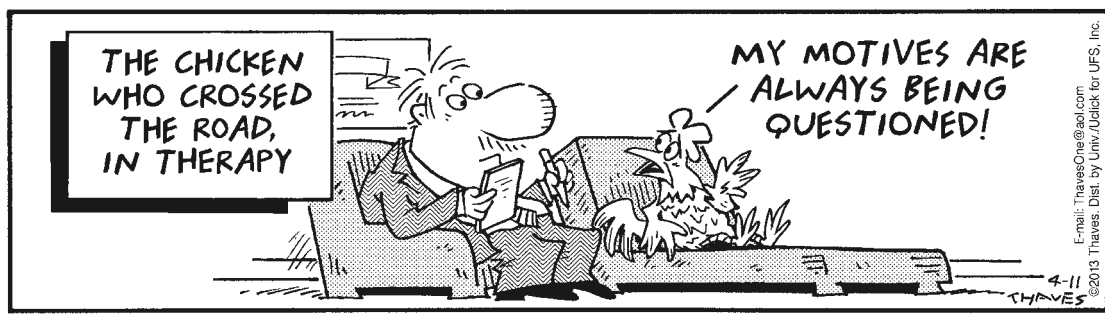


What's your cell number?
What's your cell number?
RIGHT
WRONG
BIZARROCOMICS.COM
© 2013 PIRARO 4-11-13

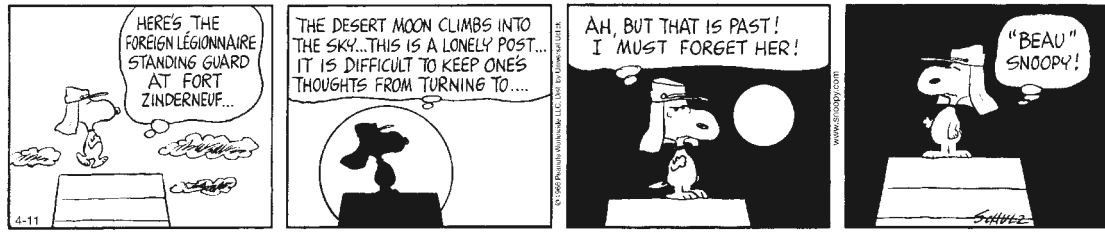
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



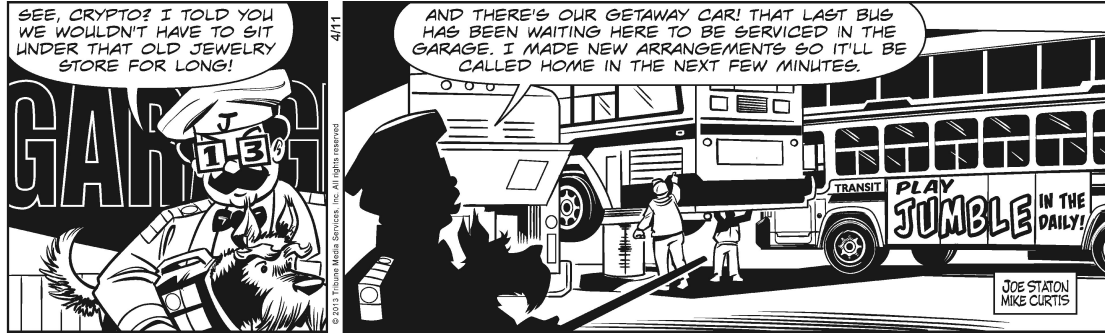
FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



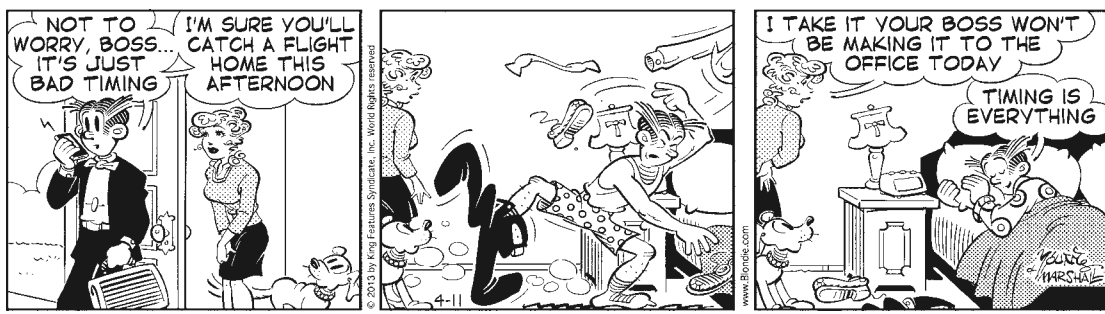
PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



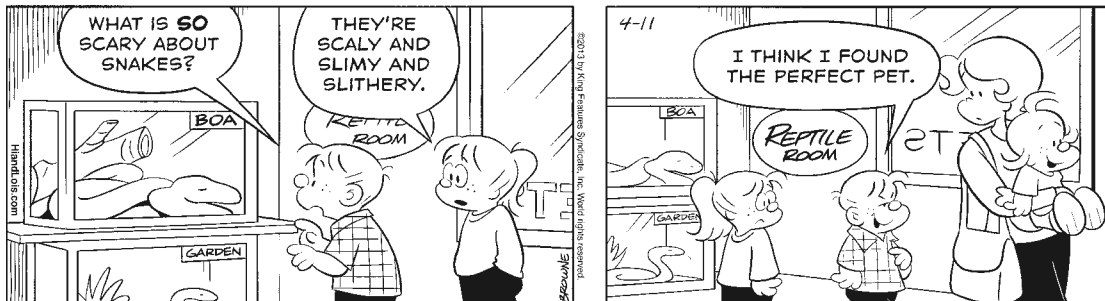
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



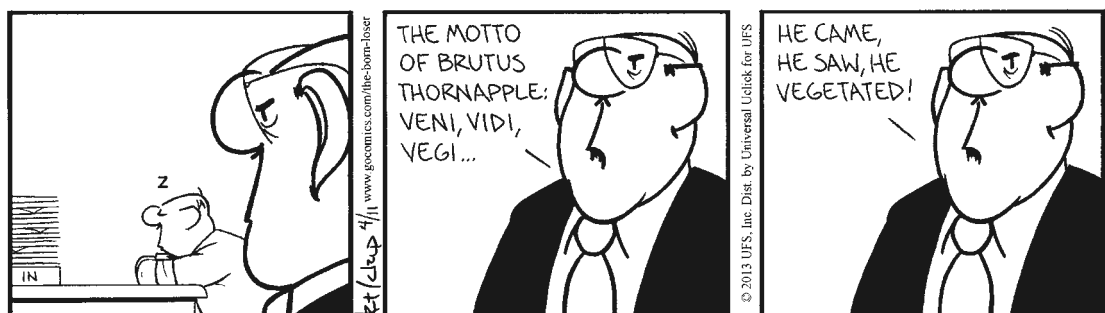
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSONO



Beholder Doesn't See Beauty In Earlobes Stretched Large

DEAR ABBY: I would like to know what the fascination is with putting plugs in one's earlobes. I have seen some as large as half dollar coins. What does the person do if he regrets having done this to his ears? Can the holes be surgically closed? — UNPIERCED IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

DEAR UNPIERCED: I spoke to James Wisniewski of the Body Electric Tattoo piercing studio in Los Angeles. He told me that, as with any type of body modification, the ear plugs are a matter of personal taste.

The process is referred to as "stretching," and James has had his earlobes this way for the past 14 years. He says he is asked about the procedure on a daily basis. He is attracted to it for the aesthetics. The modification is a gradual process, with larger jewelry being inserted as the hole becomes larger.

James recommends consulting a plastic surgeon if someone decides to have the hole closed because new tissue is grown as a result of the earlobe stretching. The extra skin may have to be removed in the same way as after a major weight loss.

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and I want to start writing a book about things I have been through in my life. My family is all for it, but my friends are against it. I am torn about what I should do. I feel if I write this book it will help kids my age who may have been through some of the same things I have.

Should I go through with it or not because my friends think it's a stupid idea? I know I'm not exactly the smartest person and getting a publisher is difficult, but does that make it a stupid idea to try? What should I do? — CONFLICTED IN INDIANA

DEAR CONFLICTED: Your reason for wanting to write a book is a valid one and you should proceed with it regardless of what your friends think. It will

help you organize your thoughts, and if you show your chapters to your English teacher, you can effectively sharpen your writing skills.

Worrying about a publisher now is putting the cart before the horse. While it might be helpful for other teens to read, I promise you that even if the book isn't published, it will become a treasured time capsule containing the thoughts that were important to you during this formative period of your life. Some people your age start writing in diaries or journals and continue doing it throughout their lives.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: What is the correct response when asked at a doctor's office or hospital if you drink? I drink socially, maybe once a month. Should I say yes? If I do, I'm afraid it will imply that I drink more often.

I always end up feeling awkward and like I need to explain myself. I'm pretty proud telling them I don't smoke or do drugs, but the alcohol question always gets me. What do other people who drink on occasion usually say? — FILLING OUT THE FORMS IN OHIO

DEAR FILLING: In my doctor's office I was asked that question, and my response was, "Yes, OCCASIONALLY." At that point, the follow-up question was, "How many drinks do you have a week?" Because this particular question makes you uncomfortable, mention to your physician that you indulge in alcohol only about once a month — which is practically negligible.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Aries and a Moon in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013:

This year you are unusually forthright and dynamic. A partner could be quite the opposite. You might not be sure what to do. Listen to this person's woes, but don't enable him or her. If you are single, you become very possessive when relating to a specific person. Is it you, or is it the other party? Remember, you cannot change anyone. If you are attached, the two of you juggle your finances fairly well. You will reach your mutual goal in the near future. TAURUS is stubborn.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Follow your intuition. A moneymaking idea of yours might have tremendous value. Try it out on several trusted friends who will take turns playing devil's advocate. You want their feedback, even if it is negative. You can make adjustments later. Tonight: Indulge a little.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

A friend who might be artistic or just unreliable might play a significant role in what goes on. Remain confident, and don't lose sight of your goals. A partner or an associate pushes you hard and could become controlling. Is this jealousy? Tonight: You make the call.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Understand that something is going on behind the scenes. You might fear the worst, but try to remain optimistic. You easily can balance a situation. A partner might be uptight about money. A change in how you handle funds could relax this person. Tonight: Get some R and R.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

You might be questioning what is happening within your immediate circle. Friends surround you, and they seem to support you. A creative venture or a matter involving a loved one could go south. Know that this, too, will change. Tonight: Where the fun is.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Others observe you a little too closely for your comfort. You might wonder if you could do something offbeat without being noticed. Let go of a controlling situa-

tion. The only way to win is to not play. A family member's negativity could irritate you. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Keep reaching out to someone at a distance — you need to speak to this person. Avoid all assumptions until you do. Someone could seem aloof, but this behavior is not intentional; he or she is preoccupied with something else. Tonight: Wherever there is good music.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

You discover the power of two. You often push very hard to achieve certain results. If you teamed up with someone, the process would be easier and just as successful, if not more successful. Use care with spending, and count your change. Tonight: Talk and visit with friends.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

Stay level-headed and focused. You could be amazed at what you can accomplish while others dilly-dally around. Be more expressive and open with a co-worker or close friend. You will see a different side emerge in this person as a result. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Stay level-headed and focused. You could be amazed at what you can accomplish while others dilly-dally around. Be more expressive and open with a co-worker or close friend. You will see a different side emerge in this person as a result. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Your creativity emerges, and it attracts many people. Your interest in a situation allows greater give-and-take. If a friend cops an attitude, ignore his or her unpleasant mood. Share a great idea with a friend, get some feedback and then go for it. Tonight: Play the night away.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

If you could work from home, would you? You just might get an opportunity to try this out. If you are OK having no one but yourself around, it just might work. A boss or an older friend seems off-kilter. Reach out to this person to find out what's going on. Tonight: Order in.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

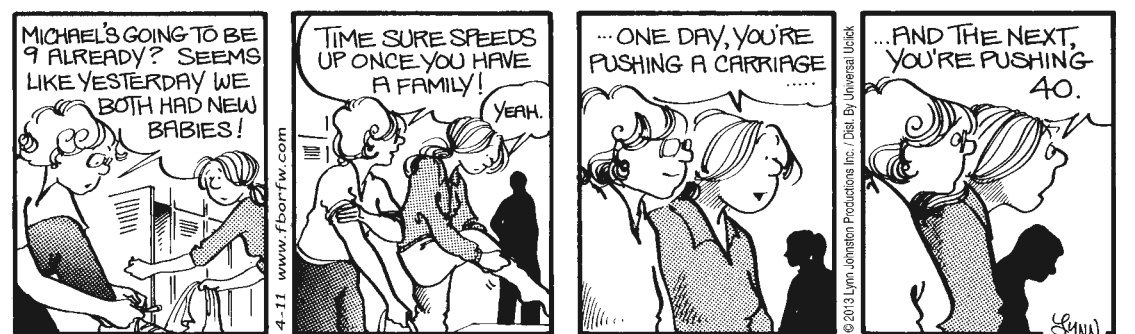
Make and return calls in the morning. A message initially could disappoint you, but in the long run, it will give you the space to do what you want. A family member lets you know how much he or she adores you. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Out and about at a favorite haunt.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

